

Exhibit #VII.B.

TO: Members of the State Board of Education

FROM: Stephen Bowen, Commissioner*

DATE: November 14, 2012

SUBJECT: Receipt of the Review Team Report of Findings Concerning the Application for Additional Degree-Granting Authority as Submitted by Kaplan University in Maine to Award Certain Baccalaureate and Associate Degrees

BACKGROUND: 20-A MRSA, § 10704 provides that any educational institution may confer additional degrees if it has initially been granted authority by an Act of the Legislature. Under Chapter 149 CMR, additional degree-granting authority must be sought from and approval granted by the Maine State Board of Education.

Officials from Kaplan University in Maine, located in South Portland submitted an application seeking additional degree-granting authority to confer two (2) degrees at the baccalaureate level as well as one (1) degree at the associate level. Specifically, the College proposed offering the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN); the Bachelor of Science in Information Technology; and the Associate of Science in Information Technology. The University's application was reviewed in the offices of Kaplan University, (Augusta campus), on Monday, September 24, 2012.

By way of background, in February 2005, Kaplan Higher Education Corporation (KHEC) acquired the common stock of Andover College. This acquisition involved the transfer of all of the College's voting stock to KHEC-Maine, Inc. Articles of Incorporation were secured through the Office of the Secretary of State and the new owners retained Andover College's name, programming, faculty/staff, and facilities. Andover College was accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC). Following acquisition the NEASC accreditation was allowed to lapse when Kaplan University in Maine was granted full accreditation by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (NCACS). Subsequently, Andover College was renamed Kaplan University in Maine with campuses in South Portland, Lewiston and Augusta.

RECOMMENDATION: That the State Board of Education receive the Review Team's Report of Findings concerning the application from Kaplan University in Maine for additional degree-granting authority to confer the aforementioned degrees at the baccalaureate and associate degree levels. Action on this request will appear as an agenda item during the Board's December 12, 2012 meeting.

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